

REMARKS

Status of Claims:

Claims 2, 3 and 8 have been cancelled. Thus, claims 1, 4-7 and 9-10 remain for examination.

Prior Art Rejection:

Claims 1 and 3-10 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Futakami (5842761) in view of Okajima (5334993).

The examiner has indicated that claim 2 is objected to and would be allowed if placed in independent form.

By way to the instant amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2, and claim 2 has been cancelled. Further, the remaining dependent claims that depend from claim 1 (which consist of all of the remaining claims) have either been amended to be consistent with amended claim 1 or have been cancelled.

It is thus submitted that all claims are allowable.

Conclusions:

In view of the comments set forth above, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and an early indication of same is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 1-13-05

By David A. Blumenthal

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5407
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

David A. Blumenthal
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 26,257